

**AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:**

Please delete the paragraph bridging pages 30 and 31 (from page 30, line 22, to page 31, line 17) of Applicants' specification, and substitute therefor the following paragraph:

-- The incident light waveguide (single mode, core portion) 7, and the two output light waveguides (single mode, core portions) 8 and 9 each had a width  $w_1$  of  $6.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , the multi-mode optical waveguide had a width  $w_2$  of  $15\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  and a length  $L$  of  $220\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ , and a distance  $d$  between the output light waveguides (single mode, core portions) at the exit of the multi-mode optical waveguide was  $3.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . ~~Although not shown, the~~ The incident light waveguide (core portion) 7 had a curve portion with a radius  $r$  of curvature as  $15\text{ mm}$ , as shown in Fig. 10. The intensity distribution of light entering into the multi-mode optical waveguide from the incident light waveguide at the connecting surface 10 of the incident light waveguide and the multi-mode optical waveguide was of a shape asymmetric with respect to the geometrical central axis of the incident light waveguide. The offset  $x$  between the geometrical central axis  $a$  of the incident light waveguide (core portion) 7 and the geometrical central axis  $b$  of the multi-mode optical waveguide was  $0.5\text{ }\mu\text{m}$ . A branching ratio between the quantities of light having a wavelength of  $1.55\text{ }\mu\text{m}$  outgoing to the two output light waveguides (core portions) 8 and 9 was measured. As a result, the branching ratio of light was  $0.99 : 1$ . --